



# Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center



## Interpretive Program Guide

for Teachers and Group Leaders  
2011-2012



*Discover Nature at Burr Oak Woods!*

## General Information

**WELCOME:** AT BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER, YOU WILL FIND A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS DEVELOPED FOR ALL SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN. EACH PROGRAM INCORPORATES HANDS-ON AND MINDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE OUTDOORS. PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO ENHANCE SCIENCE BASED SUBJECTS BUT MANY ARE CROSS-CURRICULAR, AND ARE ALIGNED TO THE MISSOURI GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS.

CHOOSE BURR OAK WOODS FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP THIS YEAR. WE GUARANTEE THAT YOUR STUDENTS WILL BE ENGAGED, LEARN, AND CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THEIR EXPERIENCE LONG AFTER THEY LEAVE THE NATURE CENTER.

**How do I schedule my  
FREE program presented by  
Burr Oak Woods?**

Registration for the fall/winter semester begins August 1st, January 2nd for the spring semester, and May 1st for summer programs. Call 816-228-3766 or email [lauren.mccarthy@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:lauren.mccarthy@mdc.mo.gov)

### Self-guided Visits

Self guided groups are always welcome at the nature center. We ask that you schedule your visit as you would any program. Upon arrival, please check in at the front desk. You will be given a trail map to help you explore the area.

### What can we expect when we arrive?

Burr Oak Woods Nature Center is owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Nestled in the heart of this 1,071-acre conservation area are six hiking trails, including two paved trails, which provide easy access to most parts of the area. The interpretive center has educational and informative exhibits, including a 3,000 gallon freshwater aquarium, a wildlife viewing room, and a variety of live amphibians and reptiles. Lunch facilities include two picnic areas. These are available on a first come first served basis. Please keep in mind that the two areas do required a drive from the interpretive center. Burr Oak Woods has a trash in/trash out policy for schools. Please bring trash bags.

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## **Back to Nature:**

### **Special Education & Special Need Groups**

**1 Hour**

BACK TO NATURE IS DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY, OR EDUCATIONALLY CHALLENGED GROUPS AND WILL FOCUS ON A VARIETY OF SENSORY EXPERIENCES. FLEXIBLE, HANDS-ON PROGRAMS OFFER A NURTURING DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF NATURE. STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET LIVE ANIMALS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL. EXPERIENCED BURR OAK WOODS NATURALISTS ARE SENSITIVE TO ANY FEARS OR CONCERNS THE STUDENTS MIGHT HAVE. ENTHUSIASTIC AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF WILL HELP TO NURTURE A DEEPER LOVE OF NATURE IN STUDENTS OF ALL ABILITY LEVELS.

### **Reptiles Rock!**

*Time of year: Year round*

Reptiles move about their world exploring with senses very different than our own. Discover their amazing adaptations.

### **Incredible Mammals of Missouri**

*Time of year: Year round*

What makes a mammal a mammal? If you don't see them when you explore in nature, how do you know they were there? Discover their incredible story through the signs they leave behind.

## **Preschool**

**1 Hour**

**Maximum 25 students**

### **Seasons of Change**

*Time of year: Year round*

The natural world is ever-changing as it cycles through the seasons. Students will discover the wonders of the present season through hands-on activities and outdoor exploration.

### **Naturally Sense-sational**

*Time of Year: Year round*

Pack your sensing toolkit and head to Burr Oak Woods as we discover how to see, smell, touch, taste, and hear just like our animal friends.

### **Nature's Hide & Seek**

*Time of Year: Year round*

"Now you see me! Now you don't!" Discover the strategies animals use to avoid predators or search for prey. Observation skills will be put to the test as we play interactive games and hike down a secret trail.

## **Kindergarten**

**1.5 Hours**

**Maximum 80 students**

### **Microhike**

*Time of Year: 2011 - 2012 School Year*

Just as Horton discovers Whoville, sometimes the most interesting things in nature are found right beneath our feet. We will explore the mini-worlds that help make the Earth an amazing place to live. Out in the field, students will use simple equipment such as hand lenses to observe and compare the structures and behaviors of different kinds of plants and animals.

**Missouri GLEs Strand: 3.1D.a., 7.1.B.K-2.b**

### **That Makes Perfect Sense**

*Time of Year: 2011 - 2012 School Year*

Wild animals use their five senses to survive in the wild just like we do at home! A wild puppet show will help your students understand how animals use their senses to survive in the wild. We'll take a hike outdoors and put some of our own senses to use as we play some fun sensory games, too!

**Missouri GLEs Strand: 3.1.D.1.c**

## **1st-2nd grade**

**2.5 Hours**

**Maximum 80 students**

### **Missouri's Creepiest Residents**

*Time of Year: 2011 - 2012 School Year*

Missouri is home to many amazing wild animals, including some that might seem kind of 'creepy'. During this program, students will work as a group to participate in an interactive game show which allows them to identify physical structures and functions of these animals and begin to better appreciate their diversity. We'll head outside to search for some of Missouri's creepiest residents in their own wild habitat and round out the program with a few 'creepy' games.

**Missouri GLEs Strand: 3.1.A.1.a, 3.1.D.1.b**

### **M-Files**

*Time of Year: 2011 - 2012 School Year*

We have called the Naturalist in Black to help your class unlock the clues to a special mystery. Your students will go outside to look for clues to solve the case. We will work together to uncover evidence involving the habitat requirements of the resident mammals at Burr Oak Woods using rap sheets and eyewitness accounts. Who is the mystery mammal?

**Missouri GLEs Strand: 3:1.A.a, 3:1.D.b, 7:1.C.a**



## 3rd-5th grade

2.5 Hours

### Maximum 80 students

#### Riddle of the Woods

*Time of Year: 2011 - 2012 School Year*

Wild animals leave clues everywhere they go. Students will play an interactive game to learn how to “read” animal signs. Simply by studying the animal’s scat, we can categorize them as one of three types of consumers: herbivore, omnivore, or carnivore. Head outside for a hike of nature discovery and play a new role in the food web to understand the flow of energy through ecosystems.

**This program best meets 3rd grade Missouri GLEs Strand:4.2.3.b -d,1.A.a, 2.A.a-c**

#### Strange, Extraordinary, and Champion Trees

*Time of Year: 2011 - 2012 School Year*

Become a giant hunter! Our assignment is to find the biggest, most incredible tree on the conservation area, and we need your help! Using cross-curricular, hands-on activities, students will learn to identify, age, and measure a tree. Your class will help to determine the Burr Oak Woods Champion Tree!

**This program best meets 4th grade Missouri GLEs Strand: 3.D.a, 7.B.a-e, 7.1.A.a-b.**

### Maximum 60 students

#### Aquatic Explorers

*Time of Year: 2011 - 2012 School Year*

Explore Missouri’s aquatic ecosystems and find the amazing diversity of life that lives in or around a pond. Much can be learned about a community by observing the biological residents. Students will conduct a scientific survey using nets to examine the invertebrate population, determine how water pollution affects living organisms within the pond through interactive play, and even go fishing to discover just which fish reside here.

**This program best meets 5th grade Missouri GLEs Strand: 3:1.E.c, 3:2.C.a, 4:1.A.a, 4:1.D.a, 5:3.A.a, 5:3.A.b, 5:3.A.c, 7:1.B.b,**

## Rain Out Program

**Critters Close-up!** If the weather turns unfavorable on your field trip day, we will still provide a quality program. Students will meet several live reptiles and amphibians in this lively eye-ball to eye-ball program!

## Programs at Your School

FROM DECEMBER THROUGH MARCH WE TAKE OUR SHOW ON THE ROAD!

### Kindergarten

2 Hours

#### Nature’s Naming Game

We use classification in our everyday life to group objects together based on common characteristics. We classify clothing, books, and even food! Classification is also an important tool scientists use to examine the natural world. Participate in hands-on activities to learn exactly what classification is.

**Missouri GLEs: Strand 3.1.D.a**

### 1st - 2nd grade

2 Hours

#### Going Batty!

Bats have been misunderstood, mistreated, and shrouded in mystery throughout time. Discover the cool physical and behavioral adaptations that make bats such unique creatures. This interactive program will leave students and teachers with a better understanding of the important role that bats play in nature.

**Missouri GLEs: Strand 3.1.A.a, 1.B.a, 1.D.b and d**

### 3rd - 4th grade

2 Hours

#### The Cycle Of Life

Discover the transfer of energy and the relationships between organisms that make up the natural world. Students will check out producer, consumer, and decomposer interactions, and examine predator/prey relationships. What is our role in this cycle of life?

**Missouri GLEs: Strand 4.2.A.b-d, 1.D.a, 2.A.a-c**

### 5th grade & up

1 Hour

#### Extinct ~ Endangered ~ Recovered

You know the story of how bald eagles have recovered as a species, but many do not know that white-tail deer almost disappeared from Missouri. In this interactive program, students will gain a deeper understanding of conserving our natural resources, we will assess a wildlife population and learn to identify factors that adversely affect them.

**Missouri GLEs: Strand 4.1.B.a and c, 1.D.a and c**

## 5th grade & up *Continued*

**1 Hour**

### **You Be the Judge**

*Time of Year: 2011 - 2012 School Year*

Conservation and natural resource issues often do not have easy solutions. Your students will have the opportunity to examine a local controversial issue as they role play in a town council meeting. They must consider competition for shelter and food, and how organisms can be impacted within an ecosystem. Can they balance human want and need with conservation of our natural resources?

**Missouri GLEs Strand: 4.1.B.a-c, 1.D.a-c**

## **Discover Nature Schools**

**3-4 hours**

**PROGRAM PROMOTE CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGE HANDS-ON OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES. GRANTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM PROVIDE MONEY FOR MATERIALS AND FIELD TRIP TRANSPORTATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION CONSULTANT AT 816-759-7300 OR AT [MDC.MO.GOV/EDUCATION](http://MDC.MO.GOV/EDUCATION)**

### **Upper Elementary**

#### **Nature Unleashed**

Your students will be engaged in real life, inquiry based scientific investigation of a pond, prairie and forest ecosystem.



### **Middle School**

#### **Conserving Missouri's Aquatic Ecosystems**

Students will follow their own curiosity to explore intriguing mysteries just beneath the surface of the water.

## **Summer Programs**

**1 Hour**

**THESE PROGRAMS ARE SCHEDULED FOR GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE. CALL THE NATURE CENTER TO SCHEDULE YOUR PROGRAM BEGINNING MAY 1ST.**

### **Insect-a-mania**

Enter the fantastic world of insects! Students will become entomologists as they venture into the prairie and come face to face with these strange and wonderful creatures.

**Maximum 50**

### **Amazing Adaptations**

From fur to scales or webbed toes to canine teeth; Animals have a remarkable assortment of adaptations. Come out and meet a variety of wild animals that call Missouri home. They truly are amazing!

**Maximum 50**



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

### **Burr Oak Woods**

**Conservation Nature Center**

**1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015**

**816-228-3766**

**[mdc.mo.gov/regions/kansas-city/  
burr-oak-woods-nature-center](http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/kansas-city/burr-oak-woods-nature-center)**

#### **Hours:**

##### **Building hours**

**Tuesday-Friday: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm**

**Saturday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

##### **Area hours**

**•During Daylight Savings Time: open daily  
from 7:00 am - 8:00 pm**

**•During Central Standard Time: open daily  
from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm**

**The building and area grounds are closed on Thanksgiving,  
Christmas, and New Year's Day.**

